

SUBJECTS.

4. Raising of grants to schools.

Mr. A. D. Arumanayagam also represented that, under a recent ruling of Government, the grant to certain Vernacular schools was reduced from three-fourths to one-half of the teachers' salaries and consequently several of the schools suffered. The London Mission Society which had charge of most of those schools in South Travancore and the people for whom they were intended were both poor and unable to pay the balance of fifty per cent. of the salaries. He, therefore, requested that the grant might be raised to at least two-thirds of the teachers' salaries.

Dewan's reply.—The modifications made last year in the system of grants to schools were the outcome of a Conference in which all denominations and interests were duly represented. The Shanars were taken away from the list of backward classes and others were included. In regard to these latter, Government have undertaken to meet the entire cost of primary education and allotted about Rs. 17,000 on this account. It is rather too soon to think of re-considering the decision arrived at only last year after mature deliberation. However, the representation will be noted for consideration in due course.

Mr. A. D. Arumanayagam also requested—

5. Satrom accommodation for all classes of people.

(1) That either the existing public *Satroms* might be thrown open to all classes of people or new *Satroms* might be built for the benefit of those who were denied the use of the existing ones :

6. Disabilities of converts to Christianity re Inheritance.

(2) That the disabilities which converts to Christianity were labouring under in respect of rights to ancestral property might be removed by legislation which should allow maintenance to Marumakkathayom converts and regular shares to Makkathayom converts from the lower classes : and

7. Admission of Christian boys and girls into all Government schools.

(3) That the boys and girls of the Native Christian community in South Travancore might be admitted into all the Government schools.

Dewan's reply.—Separate *Satrom* accommodation will be provided when funds permit. The policy of Government is to provide convenience for all classes.

In regard to the admission of Christian boys and girls into Government schools, there appears to be no prohibition on the ground of Christianity. Individual cases of complaint, when brought to the notice of Government, will be duly considered.

8. Use of Roman Catholic Bibles in Courts.

Mr. Ouseph Kunju Avirah Tharakan (Member, Travancore and Cochin Roman Catholic Association, Kottayam)